

July 1989

Bousalem, Sheikh Sabah meet

KUWAIT (AP) — Algerian Foreign Minister Bousalem Bensalah met Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad, who heads an Arab League committee seeking to mediate an end to Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war, during a stopover Sunday. The Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said that during a long night meeting, Bensalah was briefed on details of the committee's efforts. The six-member committee has completed consultations with warring factions in Lebanon and legal experts were starting Sunday to formulate a tentative peace formula that would have to be endorsed by the Arab League, possibly at a heads of state meeting. KUNA said that Bensalah, who has been visiting Arab countries including Syria, Jordan and Iraq, briefed Sheikh Sabah about matters "related to Lebanon" on his tour. It gave no other details. Bensalah's swing through Arab capitals is linked to efforts by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid to help heal rifts in Arab ranks. Reports in the Gulf say his main concern has been bridging differences between Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat as well as the rift between Damascus and Baghdad.

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King in Paris en route to U.S.

By Rania Atalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein arrived in Paris Sunday for a one-day visit during which he is expected to meet with French President Francois Mitterrand before proceeding to the United States for a scheduled meeting with President George Bush April 19.

The King is scheduled to have lunch with the French president Monday at the Elysee Palace and is expected to leave for the U.S. via London later in the day.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King would discuss with the French and U.S. presidents the latest developments on the Arab and international levels and efforts to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East as well as means of boosting bilateral relations.

King Hussein was received upon arrival in Paris by French Minister of State for Foreign Affairs George Sar and senior officials in addition to Jordan's ambassador to France and embassy officials.

King Hussein's visit to the U.S. comes in the context of cautious

A Jordanian official was

Afghan rebels hit troubled waters

By Oliver Wates
Reuter

ISLAMABAD — The Afghan rebel campaign, for nine years a straightforward "holy war" against a foreign communist invader, is facing a crisis two months after the last Soviet soldier left Afghanistan.

In the view of many analysts, Western diplomats and Afghan-watchers in Pakistan, the disparate Mujahedeen rebel movement is finding it hard to adapt to the new situation.

They say the Mujahedeen is losing the propaganda war with President Najibullah's Soviet-backed government in Kabul and has failed to establish its rival interim government as a credible alternative.

The movement has also failed to allay the fears of millions of Afghans in government-held cities of looting and massacre.

And, worse of all, it has failed to make good the boasts of Mujahedeen leaders that a military victory was round the corner. The stalemate battle for Jalalabad has shown that the military struggle could go on for a long time.

"The jihad has not been as successful as we thought in the beginning, despite all the weapons we had," an exiled Afghan intellectual said.

"It's very difficult to see the Mujahedeen winning the war militarily," a Western diplomat

commented.

This analysis is disputed by the seven Western-backed parties based in Pakistan. In public at least they are as confident as ever that final victory over Najibullah's People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) is merely a matter of time.

All Mujahedeen admit, however, that the six-week-old battle for Jalalabad has been a blow to their hopes.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Hezb-I-Islami party gunned down 70 soldiers who had surrendered, rebel sources say. Last month 25 captives were taken forcibly from moderate rebel group outside Jalalabad and shot dead.

These and other widely-reported incidents are the most powerful incentive for defenders to fight to the bitter end.

Exiled Afghan analyst Naim Majrooh warned in his latest monthly bulletin that looting and killing by victorious guerrillas would drive civilians into Najibullah's hands.

"There is a danger that uncompromising attitudes of the resistance will enable the Kabul regime and the Soviet invaders to achieve what they failed to do in the last 10 years — win the support of Afghanistan's urban population," he said.

Many guerrilla commanders are deeply unhappy with the way the jihad is being run. They blame Pakistani intelligence for pushing the rebels into the Jalalabad operation, a charge denied by Pakistan.

The rebels have also badly damaged their cause by their behaviour in victory. When they captured the northern provincial capital Kunduz briefly last autumn, there was widespread looting and killing of government officials.

'Uncompromising' stands

Last December guerrillas belonging to the fundamentalist

endorsement from Afghanistan's Shi'ite minority, powerful tribal leaders or exiled King Zahir Shah. Even its main supporter Pakistan has not recognised it.

Meanwhile Najibullah is waging a clever battle for the hearts and minds of the people. He portrays his government as defending the nation against Pakistani and Arab encroachment and preaches Islam, moderation and reconciliation.

Bitterness and hatred left by the killing of more than a million Afghans in the fighting run deep. But some Afghan exiles think the government's message could begin to take effect.

Officially all guerrilla commanders deny they would even contemplate doing a deal with the PDPA. But rebel sources say dozens of understandings already exist, such as agreements to let food convoys pass.

The commanders' links to the Pakistan-based parties are often tenuous and in the long term many might be persuaded to talk to Kabul, guerrilla sources say.

"Some very tough commanders are listening to Najibullah's speeches, they are following all events in Kabul," one Afghan activist said.

The seven parties are still fighting. Two cabinet meetings were held inside Afghanistan, but ministers from one party were not even invited to the second, guerrilla sources say.

The government has yet to win

Afghan army seeks to help stranded convoy

KABUL (R) — The Afghan army sent tanks and other reinforcements Sunday to help free a convoy of food and fuel caught up in fierce battles with Mujahedeen guerrillas.

Drivers arriving at a checkpoint outside Kabul told Reuters they had witnessed tank and rocket duels about 30 kilometres from the Afghan capital, with at least 200 trucks stranded in the area along the hazardous Salang Highway.

They said some trucks and armoured cars were burning out of control, hit by rebels dug in along the highway feeding Kabul from the Soviet Union.

Explosions echoed off nearby hills as government tanks blasted away at guerrilla positions.

Afghan helicopter gunships usually escort convoys from the Soviet Union but often fail to draw out rebels determined to starve Kabul into submission by choking off essential supplies.

Soldiers said more than 10 people, including soldiers, had been killed in two days of fighting. There was no immediate comment from the government which claimed Saturday that all the trucks had made it to Kabul.

The soldiers said at least 20 of the trucks had been hit by the Mujahedeen who have been fighting for almost 10 years to

Overthrow of government

overthrow the government of President Najibullah.

"I saw four tanks burning along the highway, some supply trucks had also been hit by the Mujahedeen," one driver said.

The first 90 trucks broke through the Mujahedeen blockade Friday, bringing much-needed supplies to the capital.

The rest of the original convoy of several hundred has been stranded since. The blockade has caused a pile-up of some 140,000 tonnes of food along the Soviet border.

The soldiers at the checkpoint told Reuters they expected the reinforced government troops to unblock the highway later Sunday.

Some diplomats estimated the number in the original convoy at 700 and it was not clear how many of the trucks had been set on fire during their journey from the Soviet border.

The Salang Highway running north to the Soviet Union passes through mountainous terrain, making it a safe haven for the rebels to rocket the trucks.

The rebels have reduced to a trickle the essential supplies reaching Kabul over land, forcing the government to rely on a Soviet airlift to prevent starvation and enable its troops to battle the Mujahedeen.

Old soldiers come to the fore in Egypt

By Sara Al Gammal
Reuter

CAIRO — Egyptian Field Marshal Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala, appointed presidential assistant Saturday, has long been viewed as the second most powerful man in the country.

He has won respect and power as defence minister by re-equipping and restructuring the armed forces, and turning the 450,000-strong military into a high-tech deterrent.

His successor as defence minister is Cairo Governor Yousef Abu Taleb, an approachable professional soldier with a love for trees and clean city streets.

President Hosni Mubarak's

surprise appointment of Abu Ghazala as his assistant fell short of making the 59-year-old war veteran and military reformer his vice-president.

Egyptian analysts say it may be some time before the full implications of the appointments become clear.

An eloquent man who speaks fluent English, French and Russian, Abu Ghazala is a veteran of three wars against Israel and in peacetime mobilised Egypt's armed forces against a new enemy, economic stagnation.

Increasing Egypt's military production has been one of Abu Ghazala's main targets. He has tried to build a local arms industry able to compete in the world market and pro-

vide the Arab World with defence needs.

In the Gulf war, Egypt became one of Iraq's main weapons and ammunition suppliers and has provided Arab states with political support and military advice.

Born in the Nile Delta village of Kafr Al Omara Jan. 18, 1930, Abu Ghazala is one of several Egyptian soldiers whose military record has propelled him upward in the political hierarchy.

He graduated from Egypt's War Academy in 1949, a year after Abu Taleb did. Trained in the U.S. and Moscow's Stalinist Academy, Abu Ghazala grasped new technology and commanded an artillery bri-

gade in his 30s.

He became chief of military intelligence in 1974 and military attache in Washington two years later. He has been heavily criticised by the left for his close ties with the West, particularly the United States.

In the mid-1970s Abu Ghazala worked under Abu Taleb who was then chief of artillery for the military, according to Talaat Mussallam, an analyst at Al Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies.

After returning from Washington, Abu Ghazala became chief of staff with the rank of field marshal in 1980 and defence minister the following year after the death of the incumbent, Ahmad Badia.

Following his meeting with Abdul Meguid, Reuven reiterated to reporters his country's refusal to talk to the PLO and called for elections among Palestinians in the occupied territories.

"The PLO is not a partner in negotiations. It is for us a terrorist organisation."

"We want to have talks with the people most concerned, people in the territories itself, and by elections they can choose representatives among themselves."

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National News

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, APRIL 17, 1989 3

VTC extends facilities to graduates

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Labour's Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) has finalised arrangements for providing training in different trades for graduates of Yarmouk University, and it hopes that the practice will be copied by community colleges and other universities in Jordan, according to VTC Director General Burhan Shreideh.

In a statement published by Sawt Al Shaab daily Saturday, Shreideh said that the step is being taken by the VTC to enable graduates to find suitable jobs in their own specialisations or other trades alike.

The VTC has already embarked on providing training to members of families under "family cooperatives" programme designed to help the bread winner of the family earn additional income, Shreideh noted. He said that the practice, which is followed in many countries around the world, entails training family members to sew shirts, do knit wear, do maintenance work on small equipment and machines.

Referring to the VTC's other operations, Shreideh noted that the corporation now operates 11 vocational training centres for young men and five for women spread across the country. The VTC which commenced operations in 1977, has carried out three year and five year development programmes to provide training to thousands of young men and women in different trades, badly needed in the local and Arab labour markets.

From 311 trainees in 1977 the number of young men and women under training rose to 11,501 in 1988, Shreideh pointed out. He said that the current 1986-1990 five year plan entails programmes for training 30,000 people either as apprentices or full-fledged vocational trainers over periods ranging from three months to three years.

Not only normal trainees benefit from the VTC services, but also the handicapped men and women are offered special vocational training courses to help them earn their own living,

Shreideh added. Shreideh said that the VTC intends to help the centres' graduates to find employment after graduation, and has plans for expanding training for girls and to set up centres which can produce different articles for sale in the local market.

He said that seminars are being held periodically and visits to schools made in cooperation with the Ministry of Education to encourage students to enrol at the vocational centres.

Referring to cooperation with Arab states, Shreideh noted that the VTC has signed a \$200,000 agreement to help South Yemen to commence vocational training programmes and has carried out similar programmes in Bahrain, North Yemen and Libya. The VTC has already dispatched instructors to these countries to help them carry out vocational training programmes, and it is hoped that the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) will open the way for further inter-Arab cooperation in this respect.



RSCN President Anis Muasher (center) presents RJ Chairman Ali Ghadour with the society shield. On the right is the society's member Mrs. Leila Sharaf (Petra photo).

RSCN honours RJ

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) Sunday demonstrated its appreciation of Royal Jordanian (RJ) for its endeavours to enable the society repatriate the Arabian oryx and other animals threatened with extinction.

The RSCN President Anis Muasher presented RJ Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Ali

Ghadour with the society's shield. Muasher said that the shield was presented on RJ's 25th anniversary and in expression of appreciation of the airline's endeavour to assist the society in its contribution to preserve wildlife in the Kingdom.

The RSCN is now in charge of seven wildlife reserves which had been established in the country to protect plants and animals and

prevent their extinction, according to a society report earlier this month. The society owns 50 heads of oryx at the Shomari Wildlife Reserve near Azraq oasis which was established in 1975.

Earlier this month the society said it was preparing a 13-part television programme on the environment in Jordan in cooperation with the Jordan Television and local writers in a bid to promote a drive for protecting the Jordanian environment and reducing pollution in the country.

The RSCN also reported that it was establishing a wildlife museum in Jordan in a bid to focus public attention on the need to protect and preserve all types of animals and highlight the country's natural history.

Jordan, Egypt plan power grid link

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) and the Egyptian Electricity Corporation have finalised a feasibility study on linking the national grids of Egypt and Jordan via Sina, according to a JEA announcement here Sunday. The announcement said that the two countries have entrusted a French consultancy firm, "Electricité de France," to carry out studies on the project which would cost \$170 million and takes four years to be carried out after approval by the two governments.

The project entails laying an overhead 400-kilovolt line along 10 kilometres from the thermal power station at Agaba to the Aqaba coast, a 12-kilometre submarine cable between Agaba coast and Sinai and a 290 kilometre 500-kilovolt line across the Sinai desert to Egypt, according to the statement.

The linkage with Egypt, the JEA statement said will help the two sides deal with emergency power shortages and benefit from low-cost power produced by either side.

Jordan's grid was connected with Syria's in 1981.

It said that the amount of drugs seized in the first two months of 1989 was double that seized in the same period of 1988, and attributed the rise to a surplus of hashish and declining prices in producing countries, high demand and soaring prices in consuming countries and the increasing number of drug traffickers

due to the prevailing economic and security climate in some of the countries in the region.

It said that Jordan, which is not a large consumer of drugs, serves as a transit ground for the traffickers in view of its central geographic location within the Arab World.



File photo of drugs seized by PSD in 1987

16 drug traffickers sentenced

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 16 people including four Syrian nationals have received sentences up to 15 years in jail and the payment of up to JD 20,000 for importing or trafficking with drugs, according to a statement by the military court Sunday.

The statement said that the convicted were found to have imported or tried to peddle hashish, heroin and captagon pills. The military governor, the statement said, has endorsed the sentence.

Last month the Public Security Department (PSD) announced that it had broken up the biggest drug smuggling operation in Jordan's history, seizing two and a half tonnes of hashish, 300,000 captagon pills with total street value of JD 2 million.

The PSD said that those involved in the trafficking operations included 12 Saudis, 25 Syrians and eight Jordanians. The statement said that according to the PSD, arrests were made in the first two months of 1989.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

ROADS: The Public Works Department in Mafrag Governorate has awarded a tender to a local company to improve the Mansheh road at a total cost of JD25,000. Work on the project is expected to start in the coming week (Petra).

WATER PIPES: The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) Sunday announced that its teams have completed a number of water networks in the Tafileh district replacing the old pipes with new ones. A WAJ spokesman said that the project cost JD 50,000 (Petra).

TRAINING: The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) has made plans to carry out 133 training programmes for its employees during 1989. A JEA official said that the training programmes covering technical, financial and administrative affairs will be held at the authority's training centre in Amman (Petra).

ARCHAEOLOGY: A team from the British Institute for Archaeology and History has started excavations at Khirbet Fares in Al Qasr district. The area dates back to the Byzantine, Roman and Iron Ages. The two month excavation is part of the Department of Antiquities plan to explore archaeological sites in various parts of the Kingdom (Petra).

FOR THE DEAF: The Ministry of Education's counselling and mental health department will start broadcasting television programmes for the deaf, by using the sign language, as of this week (Petra).

MUNICIPALITIES: Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Marwan Al Hmoud has endorsed the JD 153,851 budget of South Mazar Municipality in Karak Governorate. Hmoud also decided to form a special committee to study the tenders offered by the local councils to contractors to carry out services and development projects (Petra).

TEACHER TRAINING: A three day training programme for developing teachers performance was held at Yarmouk University Sunday. The programme is aimed at briefing teachers at the faculty of arts on new methods of education (Petra).

CONSTRUCTION: Ramtha municipality has awarded a local company a JD 50,000 tender for the construction of the final stage of the Ramtha sports stadium. This stage entails installing water and sewerage facilities along other essential works (J.T.).

Despite nightmare, Ahlam holds to her dreams

By Najwa Najjar and Rania Atalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — Ahlam's nightmare started when the 24-year-old girl from the village of Ya'bad near Jenin in the Israeli-occupied territories, was participating in a march to commemorate the martyrdom of one of her fellow villagers.

"The situation in Ya'bad was so tense that the Israeli occupation army could not enter the village," Ahlam, whose name literally translates into "dreams," recalled from her hospital bed in Amman. "A helicopter started throwing tear gas bombs on to the 8,000 or so peaceful demonstrators."

One of the bombs landed close to Ahlam. She attempted to kick the bomb away from her, but within one minute she lost consciousness from tear gas inhalation.

The immediate effect of her exposure to the gas caused a burning feeling in her face, her eyes were constantly tearing and

her stomach ached, she recalls. Ahlam suffered from that condition for a whole month, until more serious symptoms started appearing. Her arm muscles became stiff and ached as red patches appeared on her skin, turning in stages to dark brown and then to black, after that, painful blisters developed all over those patches.

Today, 14 months later, Ahlam is still suffering from the painful symptoms which continuously appear in various places of her upper body. Additional patches have appeared since she was admitted to Amman's Palestine Hospital on January 25 — patches which she says are painful and itchy. One side of her face is still slightly swollen even though she has been given treatment to reduce the swelling.

A team of doctors supervising Ahlam at the Palestine Hospital say that since they do not know what chemical substance tear gas is made out of, they cannot prove that her symptoms are a result of the inhalation of tear gas. But



Ahlam shows her inflamed arm at Palestine Hospital last week.

neither can they disprove it: In any case, they cannot help but link her symptoms with the February 1988 event.

Deep infection

A biopsy carried out in a local laboratory indicated that Ahlam suffers from infections under the skin as deep as the blood vessels and muscles. Ulceration has developed on her skin due to the decreased blood supply in the affected areas.

Dr. Ziad Kayali, a plastic and reconstructive surgery specialist who is directly supervising Ahlam in Jordan do not have the facilities to determine the substance that causes Ahlam's symptoms, he "strongly suspected" that chemical substances caused

the harmful change in Ahlam's skin tissue.

"It is definitely not a skin disease," he said. "There is a 90 per cent possibility that chemical substances caused this phenomenon." Still, he said, Ahlam's symptoms are simple compared to what she may develop in the future. Doctors have told her she is likely to develop complications in any of her organs related to the central nervous system, she says. For the time being however, her eyes and skin continue to hurt.

Kayali said only countries which produce tear gas would be in a position to prove that what Ahlam is suffering from is inhalation of poisonous chemicals since they would know what the chemicals contain and would therefore have the antidote for her treatment.

Ahlam is one of the few victims of Israeli oppression fortunate enough to have gotten treatment abroad. ... "I am convinced that

muscles of the body. Another skin specialist involved in the case, Dr. Wajdi Kan'an, pointed out that symptoms such as Ahlam's which appear due to a disease, are usually seen only in the lower limbs, and not as in Ahlam's case, in the arms or upper body.

Kan'an said only countries which produce tear gas would be in a position to prove that what Ahlam is suffering from is inhalation of poisonous chemicals since they would know what the chemicals contain and would therefore have the antidote for her treatment.

If you keep blowing it, a balloon is bound to burst. This is exactly what happened to a people who were subjected to daily beatings, humiliation, and degradation," she asserted. "The Israeli occupation forces may, in fact, be doing us a favour. Every time they hit us, they make us stronger."

One of Ahlam's six brothers was badly beaten by Israeli soldiers. Another was wounded in the leg by a bullet. But, she says, neither what happened to her nor what happened to her brothers will stop her. "My morale is higher than ever, and for me, the barrier of fear has been shattered. Our lives under occupation will end either in death or in liberation."

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

* An art exhibition displaying paintings by children at the Housing Bank Complex.

RAMADAN SOUQ

* Ramadan open-air market, which includes foodstuff, clothes, home appliances and children's toys at Mabaita, eastern Amman.

LECTURE

* A lecture entitled "The Bible and History: the Origins of State" by Jean-Michel de Tarragon at the French Cultural Centre - 5:00 p.m.

FILM

* A French film entitled "La Belle Equipe" at the French Cultural Centre - 8:30 p.m.

Transport fares next

Prices revised

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications announced Sunday that it will conduct a comprehensive revision of the current rates of transport fares in the light of Saturday's announcement of the increases in fuel prices.

A study of the cost of transport has become necessary now in view of the fuel prices which were among other things increased by a cabinet decision announced late Saturday night. Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan said.

According to the cabinet statement, the prices of fuel, soft and alcoholic drinks, cigarettes and natural mineral water were increased, and there will be increased also on the rates of registering and licensing of vehicles and of telephone bills.

The prices were readjusted in accordance with recommendations made to the government by a special committee revising the country's financial, planning, commercial, industrial and supply policies, and in an attempt to redress the deficit in the budget, increase revenues for the treasury and control spending, according to cabinet statement published in the local press Sunday.

Petrol

According to the new measures which take immediate effect, the price of fuel will be as follows: a gas cylinder will be sold for JD 2 up from JD 1.8, a litre of super petrol will be sold for 270 fils up from 210 fils, a litre of regular petrol will be sold for 220 fils up from 180 fils, jet fuel, 80 fils a litre up from 65 fils, diesel oil and kerosene, 75 fils a litre up from 65 fils, asphalt, JD 60 per tonne up from JD 50.

With regard to drinks the fol-

Soft drinks

Aerated water to sell for 130 fils per litre up from 110 fils for reusable containers and 135 fils from 115 fils for disposable containers. Natural mineral water from 110 fils to 135 fils per litre for reusable metal containers and from 115 fils to 135 fils a litre for disposable containers.

The cabinet also decided that fees on television be added, but did not specify the amount and said that a 10 per cent increase will be added to the telephone bills and telephone annual subscription.

The cabinet statement said that there will be an increase in the fees imposed on registering and licensing vehicles of all types and that a list of the new rates will follow.

SDC board meets, reviews projects progress

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Sunday announced a programme for travel across the Jordan River bridges to and from the occupied territories. According to the programme, the King Hussein and Prince Mohammad bridges will be open on Wednesday April 19, 1989 only until 10 a.m. and will be closed completely on the following day April 20.

The two bridges will open normally on Tuesday April 25, until 10 a.m. only and remain closed on the following day, the statement said. It said that traffic across the bridges on other days in between will remain normal. The statement gave no reason for the new arrangements.

Shami announced that the corporation's cultural centre has been completed at the cost of JD 1.5 million and will be officially opened in the coming month. The PSD, he said, is now setting up gardens and green areas around the cultural centre at the cost of JD 10,000.

The cultural centre is a complex built through contributions from Salts and Kuwaits and includes a mosque, a public library, a craft training centre, a car park and a multi purpose hall, Shami told the meeting.

Shami also announced that the

SAID (Petra) — The work and achievements of the Salt Development Corporation (SDC) were reviewed at a meeting here by the corporation's board meeting under the chairmanship of Mr. Jaafar Al Shaami the corporation's director general and board chairman.

Shami announced that the corporation's cultural centre has been completed at the cost of JD 1.5 million and will be officially opened in the coming month. The PSD, he said, is now setting up gardens and green areas around the cultural centre at the cost of JD 10,000.

Shami noted that contacts are underway with the Ministry of Education to supply the cultural centre with qualified teachers.

Shami said that JD 156,000 have been spent on the pilot school and the PSD has donated JD 7,100 to Salt municipality to help it carry out municipal projects and JD 1,500 to the sports club.

Shami also announced that the

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JABAL AMMAN - JORDAN INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL NEXT TO ALA ROYAL TOURS TEL 654977

TANAMI GRAPHICS

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

جريدة الأردن اليوميةapolitical daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.

جودن تيمز جريدة سياسية ملخص اخبارية عن المؤسسات العربية والدولية

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The only hope for Lebanon

WITH the principal antagonists in Lebanon divided as ever on how to defuse the recent escalation in the fighting in the country and the international community also getting confused and bewildered on how to resolve the 15 years old conflict, the only remaining common denominator on which all parties within and without Lebanon seem to agree is to give the Arab League's reconciliation committee all the support necessary to enable it to carry out its mandate. This Arab League committee is painstakingly and step by step working on a formula to settle the Lebanese crisis from its roots and in all its dimensions. Surely a formidable problem of the size of the Lebanese dilemma cannot be expected to be settled over night. Much work has still to be done. Equally important is that such Arab efforts need to be done quietly, confidentially and away from the limelight in order to give the various factions in Lebanon appropriate opportunities to negotiate with one another through the Arab League committee in the most earnest possible way. Luckily there is a growing consensus regionally and internationally that the Arab League efforts offer Lebanon and the Lebanese people their best chance to put an end to their sufferings. Every effort must therefore be made by all parties to the Lebanese conflict to give the ongoing Arab League attempts to bring the Lebanese drama to peaceful and reasonable resolution a real chance to succeed. There is no way for the Arab League to accomplish the mandate of the ministerial committee without affecting an immediate halt to the indiscriminate shelling that is still going on in Lebanon.

It pains every human being on Earth not to mention the Arab Nation to see endless killing and destruction continue in Lebanon. In this vein, the deployment of an inter-Arab force to monitor the armed conflict in Lebanon would be the only sensible thing left to do now. If there is ever an opportune time and environment for the resort to an inter-Arab force to assure the stopping of blood letting in Lebanon it is now. The Arab World must demonstrate to Lebanon its real devotion and commitment to its return to normalcy in accordance with the Arab League charter and by the most operational way — the deployment of an Arab peace-keeping force. The reputation of the Arab League system is now at stake and how it goes about ending the armed and political conflict in Lebanon would determine its relevancy within and without the Arab World. The eyes of the whole world are therefore set on the Arab League ministerial committee and on its recommendations to put an end to the cycle of the fighting between fellow Lebanese people.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily newspaper praised the government's measures designed to bolster the national economy and said that the decision to raise the price of non-essential materials was a step in the right direction. The paper said that the boosting of the economy is a national responsibility and the Jordanian citizens must shoulder their share and contribute towards executing a five year economic programme which will reduce the deficit in the budget and increase domestic revenues. Reducing expenses and rationalising consumption are bound to lead to further savings which are needed to pay off the debts and maintain the momentum of socio-economic development in Jordan, the paper added. It said that the execution of economic programme as backed and endorsed by the International Monetary Fund will help stabilise the Jordanian currency and achieve further economic growth reaching up to four per cent. For its part the government will now embark on implementing the economic programme which would not only save funds needed for development but will open the way for further investments and subsequent additional income.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily Sunday discusses the work of the Arab League mediation team which is trying to put an end to the civil strife in Lebanon. We wonder how this mediation team will be able to end the conflict in Lebanon since the Lebanese people themselves have lost their control over their own affairs, says Tareq Masarweh. The Lebanese militias, the writer adds, have become tools in the hands of bigger powers and the battlefields in Beirut are no more than stages for their acting. The meetings in Kuwait with the representatives of the different parties, and the decision whether to add one member to parliament or not, can by no means end the sufferings of the Lebanese people. The only solution, the writer says, is to hold talks with the bigger powers which are exploiting the Lebanese people and perpetuating the sufferings of the innocent people.

Al Dustour daily commented on the current flurry in Arab diplomatic activities on the eve of King Hussein's travel to Washington for talks on the Middle East issue with President Bush and the American administration. The paper said Amman has been visited by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat for coordination of stands vis-a-vis the Palestine question and other national issues. It said that the visits by the two Arab leaders here can be interpreted as a means to boost the Arab Nation's stand and to add their efforts to those of the King who is spearheading the endeavours to achieve peace.

Weekly Political Pulse

Inching towards elections?

By Waleed Sadi

ISRAELI Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's election formula for the West Bank and Gaza Strip appears to be gaining currency amid reports that Washington is leaning heavily in favour of endorsing it because it allegedly contains the seeds for a breakthrough in the Middle East peace process. Newsreports, meanwhile, suggest that Palestinian and Arab rejection of the idea is slowly eroding. All these developments are taking place when little thus far has been released about the salient features of the election scheme.

It must also be remembered that the election idea per se came in the midst of a multi-faceted "peace" plan that Shamir took with him to Washington last week. Accordingly the presentation of the principle of the ballot in the West Bank and Gaza Strip was never highlighted as the centrist theme in the Shamir plan. The other points mentioned in the Israeli proposal touched upon the sacrosanctity of the Camp David Accords, the need to resolve the Palestinian refugee problem and the overall Arab-Israeli relations. Thus, as I see the election component of the Shamir initiative, it is only a part of a comprehensive package deal featuring complimentary components from the Israeli point of view. What amazes me therefore is why all the fuss about one part of an Israeli "peace recommendation" when all the other parts,

which are just as contentious and substantive, have escaped Arab and international attention.

As for the idea of settling the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through ballots rather than bullets, it appears that what Shamir has in mind is that any such elections would produce a Palestinian delegation which will negotiate an interim settlement in which a self-governing administration will be set up in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Shamir also offered a tempestuous bait which says that there could be negotiations after the viability of the interim settlement has been substantiated which would address the issue of the final settlement for the occupied territories on a basis which would not exclude any option. However the willingness of Shamir to discuss any option as basis for a final settlement was not left to rest in peace by Shamir for with the same breath he made it emphatically clear that his country cannot relinquish control of the West Bank and Gaza Strip because such withdrawal would lead to a "PLO state" on the outskirts of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and that in his estimation that would constitute a mortal danger to Israel.

The immediate question that comes to the fore is which of Shamir's statements one should believe: the one suggesting that before long there will be negotiations on the permanent status of

the Arab territories, in which all options would be considered, or the one that refers to the West Bank and Gaza Strip as Judea and Samaria from which Israel cannot withdraw? To me such a question and better still the answer to such a question is more fundamental than whether the Arab side should welcome the election proposal or reject it. Instead, the rhetoric on the election idea is moving in the direction of whether to accept elections among the Palestinians conditionally or to reject them unconditionally. As Nabil Shaath, political adviser to President Yasser Arafat has commented before the American Society of Newspaper Editors in Washington Thursday, "the idea of elections is absolutely desirable, absolutely exhilarating to Palestinians. But then one has to put these elections in their proper perspective. Free elections require an end to occupation."

But if in the final analysis there are elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip under appropriate conditions there would be no way to put the genie back in the jar. The ripples and after-effects of such an exercise of free and democratic elections would snowball to infinite proportions and there is no telling where they will all lead the Palestinian side. However one thing is sure. The result of any such elections under suitable conditions would be the surest civil way to undermine Israel's continued occupation of Arab territories.

Eagleburger: Step-by-step in the Mideast

Following is the text of remarks made by U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger to the United Jewish Appeal (UJA).

WHAT I want to talk about very briefly this afternoon is the Middle East — just to give you a little outline of where we stand in the aftermath of the Shamir and Mubarak visits. But before I talk briefly about the visits themselves, I need, I think, give you a little sense of sort of where we're coming from on the general problem of the Middle East peace process.

There are really three factors that have guided the President and Secretary Baker when they begin to try to deal with this thus far intractable problem: the first is I think obvious to everybody. The situation in the region is not one that will get better by itself. It's not a situation if left to itself, it will improve. Therefore, we have to be active. But at the same time we do believe that there are opportunities which may have changed Israeli and Palestinian thinking enough that they are worth exploring.

Second, the environment in the region, will not sustain a negotiation now in our judgment, or a high visibility initiative by any outside party including the United States. The formal gaps between the parties are still too large, and suspicions are still too entrenched.

Third, mechanisms like an international conference — at this

time — may distract from the choices they have to make to implement the workable process.

Focusing on the conference as this point, would in our judgment be counterproductive. That is not to say that a conference at some time may not be possible, but it is not something that we believe ought to be the first event — or close to the first event — in the peace process.

Prime Minister Shamir came with an encouraging elections proposal that could provide a basic for moving ahead. The Prime Minister's proposal went beyond Camp David — that is, elections before an agreement on transitional arrangements — not after — and that's a major step forward and we need to recognise it as such. He also used a new formulation: elections to quote, "launch a negotiating process," unquote, which suggests his understanding of the need to satisfy Palestinian political aspirations within some context.

It is our view that the key principles of these negotiations must be the achievement of Israeli security, Palestinian political rights and a comprehensive peace through negotiations based on U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. It is within this framework that we are evaluating, looking at, studying the consequences of the visits by Mubarak and Shamir.

Our general judgment is that we are encouraged by what has happened so far, though I would

also caution you, and it should be fairly obvious, that we are again dealing with small steps.

President Mubarak clearly understands our approach, particularly the need to change the atmosphere before workable negotiations can be launched. He left here agreed not to prejudice the idea of elections and to see whether it could be used to launch a peace process.

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He talked of negotiations that would try to accommodate Israeli and Palestinian needs. Now, much remains to be done. We need to work to flesh out the details of how we get to elections — and we — that is still substantial work to be done: How we get to the elections, what the elections themselves would be like, and most important of all, their link to a final status negotiation.

The fact is, that elections are an intensely political act surrounded by a great deal of politi-

cally charged activity that would give both Palestinians and Israelis a new way to begin to deal with each other.

This is a challenge in the period ahead. Moving intensively on an — and I emphasise — a step by step process aimed at two things: to work through with the Israelis the issues related to Shamir's elections proposal, and to work with the Arab world to see how we might transform the situation and build on the elections idea in a way that makes progress possible.

Let me end by saying a word about the PLO. We are not trying to mediate between Israel and the PLO. We do have our own dialogue with the PLO, as you know. That dialogue is not an end in itself. We will use it to determine whether Arafat is ready to take concrete steps to allow a process of Israeli-Palestinian accommodation on the West Bank and in Gaza to develop. We are hopeful at this point, but it's early in the process. There is certainly a long way to go, but we have a process underway, we think, that is rotted in reality. We want to build on what the prime minister has brought us — and it is significant — and it is important that all of those who are committed to peace — Arabs, Israelis, Palestinians and Americans — not reject out of hand the ideas that Shamir has brought and that we work constructively together to give it a fair hearing.

We are, in a word, asking

Central America and superpower rivalry

By Bernd Debusmann
Reuter

MEXICO CITY — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's call for an end to the arms race in Central America has highlighted a vast gulf between superpower words and deeds in an area armed to the teeth.

Moscow and Washington have pumped weapons worth billions of dollars to their respective clients in Central America, giving it one of the world's highest rates of military growth over the past decade.

Military supplies from bullets to bombers and tanks have continued despite earnest public declarations from both superpowers that there can be no peace as long as militarisation of the region continues.

Gorbachev made the latest superpower call for an end to arms deliveries during his visit to Cuba last week. "There is at the present time a real possibility to ensure peace and security in the region," he said in Havana.

"A major condition for this would be a halt to military supplies from wherever they come."

Similar statements in the past have not been matched by any reduction of Soviet supplies to Nicaragua, whose armed forces have increased more than tenfold in the past decade to become the biggest in Central America.

In turn, the U.S. government has shown no inclination to translate into deeds periodic calls for a halt to weapons supplies. Congress has cut military supplies to right-wing insurgents in Nicaragua but U.S. client governments in El Salvador and Honduras continue to receive large amounts of weapons.

"It has been the same story year after year," said a Latin American diplomat. "The Americans say they will stop once the Russians stop. The Russians say they will stop once the Americans stop. It is always 'you first' and no one is making the first move."

In January the United States completed delivery of a squadron of F-5 fighter jets to Honduras, at \$72 million the biggest single military deal in Central America for years.

The fighters, the most advanced aircraft in the Central American arsenal, were shipped three months ahead of schedule and ensured Honduran air superiority over Nicaragua.

Western diplomats said the early deliveries of the F-5s was meant as a signal from President Bush that he was as committed to backing Honduras, Washington's closest ally in Central America, as was President Reagan.

The superpowers' apparent hypocrisy underscores the fact that Central America has yet to benefit from the improved climate in U.S.-Soviet relations which has led to disarmament in El Salvador.

Soon after the revolutionaries of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) in Nicaragua toppled dictator Anastasio Somoza in 1979, Washington accused the Sandinistas — in complicity with Cuba — of running arms to left-wing rebels fighting the U.S.-backed government in El Salvador.

Western military experts say

they do not expect sizeable cuts in military aid from either superpower though the staggering growth rates of the past are unlikely to be repeated.

In response, the U.S. helped raise an army of right-wing insurgents, known as contras, who began fighting the Sandinistas from bases in Honduras. Both the Salvadorean and Honduran military establishments flourished with large injections of U.S. aid to the hilt.

The Soviet Union in turn armed the Sandinistas on the premise that they had to be strong enough to withstand military pressure from the contras and the Hondurans.

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During a ceremony organised to commemorate the anniversary

(Continued from page 1)

Bank city of Nablus and two in Jenin refugee camp.

All these areas were under curfew at the time, as was Deheishet where Kasab was shot.

At least 437 Palestinians have been killed in the 16-month-old Palestinian uprising.

All 650,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and more than 300,000 in the West Bank were under curfew Sunday, one year after Abu Jihad was gunned down at his Tunis home.

Despite the army curfews, dozens of protests were reported Sunday.

In Nablus, dozens of pictures of Abu Jihad were plastered on walls and utility poles. In Tulkarem, Palestinians chanted over loudspeakers: "Abu Jihad, rest in peace. We continue the struggle."

Israel never officially acknowledged responsibility for the Abu Jihad assassination, but authoritative Israeli sources said the inner cabinet ordered it in the belief that Abu Jihad was directing the uprising.

Shamir meanwhile won broad cabinet support Sunday for his election proposal, Israeli ministers said.

But two right-wing ministers voiced doubts, suggesting Shamir may face opposition from hardliners in his own Likud party, as well as the public rejection by Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Shamir, who returned from the United States Friday, presented his four-point plan to the cabinet Sunday after receiving cautious backing from President George Bush.

"I believe it is a good initiative," Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin told reporters after the meeting. "This initiative puts the ball in the Arab, Palestinian court because Israel offers something concrete — how to move from the present situation towards peace on our eastern border."

Right-wing ministers David Levy and Yitzhak Modai expressed misgivings, saying the plan would only "legitimise" candidates from the PLO.

During a ceremony organised to commemorate the anniversary

of the killing last year

sparked violent protests in the occupied territories and troops shot dead 14 Palestinians, the highest death toll for a single day since the uprising started in December 1987.

Posters and slogans commemorating Abu Jihad have appeared all over the West Bank and Gaza Strip since last week.

Police said they arrested 45 Arabs after a bomb exploded in a dustbin in a Tel Aviv suburb. The blast caused no injuries.

Rabin reaffirms stand

In Tunis, Palestine President and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said Sunday the PLO would accept elections in the occupied territories under two conditions

— that they be held after withdrawal of Israeli troops and under U.N. supervision.

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Features

Taxi! Taxi!

In a word apparently obsessed with design and yearly model improvements, it's nice to find a 40-year-old product still going strong. It's name? The London Taxi. **Arturo Gensini** reports.

ALL THINGS considered, the British have a lot to be proud of in their distinctive London taxicab. Consider some of its amenities: a 1.75-metre height predetermined so that a gentleman may sit in with his top hat on and not touch the roof. Forty-centimetre-deep cushioned seats. Physical separation by glass from the driver. Two jump seats so that four can fit inside its 1.7-metre-wide rear passenger compartment. Rear-view mirrors mounted on the wings or at such an angle in the cab so as to ensure passenger privacy.

A rear compartment heater and lights which can be turned on by the passenger. A well-lit meter positioned so that nothing blocks it from the clients' view. And a turning radius of under seven metres, making possible, for this 3.8 metre long car, some of the sharpest U-turns imaginable.

The boxy British Leyland, Austin-designed FX4 hack hasn't changed materially since the 1920s when it was first conceived. The current model dates back to 1948, the year Prince Charles was born. Several prime ministers later, the car has hardly altered.

Maybe the British have built such a good cab because they've been in the business of chauffeuring people around longer than most.

History of 'taxi-cabs'

In 1634, a retired sea captain in London began renting out five horse-drawn cabs to people who didn't want to muddy their feet in the dirt of the city streets. Drivers arrived liveried and bewigged and charged about 12 cents a mile. London's oldest cab stand is on the Strand where it has been for over 350 years.

Then came Joseph Aloysius Hansom, a milestone name in the history of British cab. He designed the distinctive horse-

drawn, two-wheeler in which Sherlock Holmes clip-clopped through the foggy gaslit London streets.

In 1896 there were 7,580 hansom cabs in London, as against only 13,500 cabs today. The hansom held sway until 1904 when automobiles clattered onto London's streets.

The term "cab" comes from the French *cabriolet de place*, a horse-drawn cart for hire in London and Paris in the early 1800s. To register the tax on a ride, the French in 1898 installed a taxi-meter and the term "taxi-cab" was born.

The London Hackney Carriages Act — named for a breed of horse which used to pull early cabs — is more than 100 years old and has still not been fully overhauled by British authorities. Until the late 1940s, every cabby on the roads was legally obliged to provide one bale of hay a day for his animal.

Actually, London's first laws governing cabs date back to 1657 when Cromwell's officials forbade "over-charging, wanton and reckless driving, refusing to accept a hiring, and declared "anyone guilty of the said abuses shall be whipped."

Perhaps the British Government has been a little slow to rewrite its 1869 Public Carriages Act, but there is nothing backwards about the way it currently manages its cabs and cabbies.

Since 1850, the Carriage Office has been part of Scotland Yard. A staff of close to 80 runs 13,500 cabs and 18,500 drivers criss-crossing the 1,735 miles of roadway in London's 650 square miles.

Stringent checks

One requirement which other countries might do well to imitate is an annual stringent breakdown, reassembly and overhaul of every cab on the road. At the busy Public Car-

riage House in London, 80 cabs a day get a going-over that's a mechanic's dream. Checks are so stringent that most owners find it unprofitable to keep a car on the road for more than 10 years.

Of course, the British cab is not perfect. It is diesel-powered for economy, but drivers complain that the four-cylinder engine is noisy. And it's not designed for speed; if a driver puts his foot down, he's lucky to hit 100 kilometres per hour. But on Britain's city streets, speed is seldom possible anyway. Also, the boot is small, but this is compensated for by commodious luggage space alongside the driver.

There's no doubt that the four-speed Austin taxi is a vehicle which reaches out and simply grips the affections of men who admire automobiles. One eccentric millionaire had a cab specially built for himself several years ago with assorted gold fittings and electrically operated windows. When part of his estate was auctioned off, it went for close to \$15,000.

An American tycoon, Franklyn Bower, decided several years ago that the London taxi was the perfect gift for the "man who had everything" and ordered 32 vintage vehicles for about \$75,000, shipping charges included.

Changes 'unwelcome'

The most frightening of all thoughts is that the British are tampering with this near-perfect design. London Taxis International has a new model, fashioned on the Range Rover, ready to come out. Called the CR6, it will cost cabbies about \$16,500. If they roll out in quantity, it will mean a lot of free rides; tradition has it that the first passenger gets the ride on the house.

Another grisly prospect: Some London cabs may soon be equipped with back seat video which will play 30 minutes of commercials at passengers. Happily, there will be a passenger block-off switch.

Several prestigious London



Aspiring London cabbies have to prove they know all of London's 7,500 street names.

firms have their own private cabs. Counter the bankers have a maroon model; stockbrokers Grieveson Corant's is green; realtors Knight, Frank and Rutley has a phone in its private taxi.

Budget Rent-a-Car has been renting a white London cab (sans meter and "Taxi" sign) for those who want to get behind the wheel of this ultimate auto.

Genial drivers

There is one other element which makes a ride in a British taxi a delight in comparison with enduring a trip elsewhere. The difference is the British taxi driver. Sporting nicknames like Billy the Coalman, Shiny Tops and Randy Raw, wearing their traditional brass lapel badges, taxi drivers are a unique and dedicated, bluff and genial bunch.

One is a knight, Sir Tom Sharman, who continued to drive even after the queen tapped him on the shoulder for his work with Britain's housing associations.

Becoming a London cabby is no cinch. Applicants must put in 15 to 18 months of study, taking an oral exam every two or three weeks at Scotland Yard's Public Carriage Office to obtain the distinctive green licence. The candidates have to prove they know all of London's 7,500 street names within

a six-mile radius of Charing Cross station. About 1,500 hopefuls, average age 20, tackle the course each year; less than 750 make it.

Ernie Keats of the Licensed Taxi Drivers Association explains the routine. "The Carriage Office gives each man a little blue book with about 450 routes in downtown London in it, and he has to learn the most direct way to each spot. By the time he's finished with the book and the training, he's crossed and re-crossed the same streets hundreds of times."

"Then he's also 'On The Knowledge'. That means getting on a motorbike to follow all the routes he'll eventually drive, learning the one-way streets, memorising every cinema, theatre, museum, hotel and train station.

"The men learn London on a vengeance because, after all, it's a job for a lifetime, isn't it?"

The trade has a lingo all its own:

"Mushers" are owner-drivers; "journeymen" the drivers who rent their cabs; "butterboys" newly licensed cabbies.

British cabbies have a reputation for being thoughtful and responsible men. Often you'll see a cab trying to make a U-turn into a long line of London traffic and, inevitably, it's a fellow cabby who'll blink his lights and make a gap so his buddy can slip in.

For years an elderly British

driver in Ledbury took it on himself to attend to the transportation needs of a widow in her 80s, waiting for her when she shopped, coming by to pick her up at regular times.

I suppose she was my best customer," he recalls. "She told me she was going to leave me something in her will but I never took any notice of that."

When she died at 86, he got the biggest tip of his life from her, \$75,000.

My own favourite British

cabbie story is a personal one. I had to travel out to Silverstone to photograph Grand Prix driver Jackie Stewart in a race, and took a five-mile cab ride from the train station to the speedway. In the cab, I asked the driver if he's pick me up at the 5 p.m. and he agreed.

At five, I arrived at the spot but was dismayed to find that the police had converted the two-way highway into a one-way exit road from the track. There was absolutely no way for the cab to drive up to me.

I asked a policeman how I might get home and he suggested walking a mile down the road, until it became two-way again. These I'd find a bus which would get me to the station. So I started tramping.

Halfway there I met my driver — walking up. Picking me up meant a two-mile hike for him from where he was parked, but he'd made a promise, hadn't he? — Reprinted from Emirates Inflight magazine.

importance of the site.

Gretton said the seminar was a great success. "Somehow we have to try and develop a plan which rationalise all the competing interests for the area," Gretton said.

Before they were spotted on the Merja Zerga lagoon, slender-billed curlews had been glimpsed only sporadically over the last 10 years coming down to feed during the long journey westwards.

Experts reckon the slender-billed curlew — *Numerius tenuirostris* — to be the most endangered species of migratory bird in Europe and Africa, with fewer than 100 left.

"It is quite simply on the brink of extinction," Alastair Gamble of Britain's Royal Society for the Preservation of Birds (RSPB) told Reuters.

Bird watchers during the past three months spotted three slender-billed curlews wintering on the Merja Zerga lagoon, near the pictureque town of Moulay Bou Selham on Morocco's Atlantic coast.

The bird, small and whitish with black and brown spots, breeds in the central Siberian marshes, and then in the autumn it migrates thousands of miles across Eastern Europe to Africa.

"It is extremely rare. No nest has been found in the Soviet Union since before the Russian revolution. Less than 100 is a really desperate situation for a bird that migrates so many thousands of miles," said Adam Gretton of the International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP).

The ICBP has launched a campaign to save the species which has thrown the spotlight on the 7,000-hectare coastal reserve, hitherto known to only a handful of bird watchers.

Conservationists are concerned about hunting which takes place on the edge of the reserve, and poaching and overfishing by the local population. They also fear the scenic area could be targeted for major tourism developments.

The RSPB and ICBP organised a day's seminar at a hotel near the reserve recently to try to make local officials more aware of the threat to the birds.

Birdwatchers turn to Morocco for rare species

By Jonathan Clayton
Reuter

MOULAY BOU SELHAM, Morocco — International conservationists have joined forces to try to save the Moroccan winter resting ground of one of the world's rarest birds.

Experts reckon the slender-billed curlew — *Numerius tenuirostris* — to be the most endangered species of migratory bird in Europe and Africa, with fewer than 100 left.

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Rushdie affair fails to cloud Romans' ecumenical spirit

The planned mosque of Rogers being used by Italy's right wing to stir up communal trouble against the country's Muslims, but the ecumenical spirit remains strong in the home of the Roman Catholic church.

By Fabrizio Fontemaggi

ROME — The Salman Rushdie affair, used by the right wing to spread alarm about the planned completion next year of the first mosque in Rome, has failed to cloud the Romans' liberal outlook on the changing map of their city.

Although recent weeks have seen much heated publicity being given to the Muslim presence in Italy — some 700,000 people of diverse backgrounds in Asia and Africa — prominent Italians have

also counselled moderation and they have been given a hearing.

The debate over the Muslims, in fact, is an offshoot of the controversy over the influx of people from Italy's former colonies, political trouble spots in the Middle East and economically strapped countries of Asia and South and Central America.

Until last year the controversy was foreshadowed by the "Le Pen factor" or worries that the rise of the National Front in neighbouring France was about to have a spillover effect in Italy.

The controversy over the mosque has sprung more from its opponents' perceptions than from

the mind. It teaches you and the doctor more about your psyche."

Doblin says people with a history of heart disease should avoid ecstasy because the drug increases the heart rate and raises blood pressure. One young woman in New York died of a heart attack in February after taking the drug.

Experts say users could experience severe depression and become psychologically addicted. Some researchers believe it may harm the central nervous system.

At Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Dr. George Ricaurte is conducting an experiment with MDMA and humans to determine whether it harms the body.

The study has not attracted many volunteers because it requires a spinal tap. "Right now, not enough people have been studied to publish any solid conclusions," Ricaurte said.

MDMA was first manufactured in 1912 as an appetite suppressant. It has been used in American psychiatry, and psychotherapists continue to use the drug in Switzerland.

He says it has few side effects and there is not much proof of serious complications, a view many psychotherapists and drug experts dispute.

Doblin says ecstasy can be taken in a controlled setting, allowing the user to get in touch with a range of emotions that otherwise might remain repressed.

According to Doblin, who says the drug will be legal by the year 2000, "MDMA is one of the safest drugs it is not particularly addictive, nor does it leave you feeling out of control. Drugs like

MDMA act as a microscope into

completion of the main building. Work on other buildings, including a cultural centre, library and museum will be started when additional donations are made into the mosque fund.

The idea of a mosque in Rome was first raised during the 1930s regime of fascist dictator Benito Mussolini, who refused permission.

The subject was raised several times after the end of the war but it was not until 1965 that the stage was set with the Vatican declaration of respect for Islam. When King Faisal visited Rome in 1973, he received assurances that the mosque's construction would not be blocked. A site was then chosen near the Tiber River, a few miles from the Vatican, and

work began in 1983.

None of this would have been possible, of course, had the Vatican not relented in its original opposition to the project. In recent years not only has the Vatican shown an increasing willingness to work with Islam, its outlook has been influenced in no uncertain terms by the events in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Since the start of the intifada, the Palestinian uprising, the Vatican has shown cognizance of the close bond that exists between its followers in the Christian communities and the Muslims. On the other hand, it has apparently been perturbed by the conversions of several thousand Italian Catholics

to Islam. The Vatican's strong condemnation of the Satanic Verses seemed to reinforce an oft-repeated idea that the Vatican would stand behind the faithful irrespective of their religious denomination.

Italian and Vatican analysts believe that by standing aside the Vatican and Italy have made a significant long-term diplomatic investment in the world of Islam.

Not only has their approval of the project given both a greater leverage in dealing with chronic issues, such as the conflict in Lebanon.

Although a large part of the Muslim immigrants still are awaiting legalisation, and some 4,000 of them are students, others

'Ecstasy' — the in-thing in New York City nightclubs

By Allison Hayey

NEW YORK — Ecstasy, a psychedelic drug first popular in the 1960s has reappeared in New York nightclubs.

Users say it makes them feel happy, warm and sensual.

"I feel great when I take ecstasy. My worst enemy becomes my best friend," said one.

On any night there is a party somewhere in a smoke-filled club packed with young men and women swaying to the resonant sounds of "house music" and downing a drug they think has no harmful side effects.

The scene at one Lower East Side club on a recent night was typical. The pillow-filled lounges were packed with young people under a glare of psychedelic lights.

The powder was methylene dihydroxyamphetamine (MDMA), known as ecstasy.

Many drug experts say it is quickly becoming the drug of

Fighting exacerbates economic hardships for all Lebanese

BEIRUT (AP) — Coughing and rubbing smoke-filled eyes, the workers at the Cortas canning factory gutted in Lebanon's civil war crouched on blackened floors, rummaging through charred cans to salvage what they could.

"Our place of work has been turned into a dungeon of hell," a woman said as she picked her way along wooden planks placed over a big puddle of molasses spilled from burst cans.

The three-story plant and its big refrigeration unit, which produced canned vegetables, sauces and jams, is one of at least five factories set ablaze when a nearby fuel depot in the Dora district of east Beirut was hit by rockets March 30.

Sixty per cent of Lebanon's gasoline reserves and 80 per cent of its diesel oil stocks went up in flames in the Dora fire, forcing serious electricity cuts. With fuel in short supply, many businesses have been unable to use their

own generators for power.

Lebanon's manufacturers, who focus on light industry, reportedly lost at least \$100 million in a month of fierce artillery and rocket battles.

Employees at a factory near Beirut said they stopped going to work two weeks ago because "the militias set up positions on the first floor and turned the basement into a shelter where they hide from the shelling."

The owner, who declined to be identified and did not want his factory's location mentioned for security reasons, said he is "losing millions of liras a day."

Most of Lebanon's industry is concentrated in the Dora and Mekalleh districts of east Beirut.

which is bombarded almost daily. Somehow the economy, reflecting the resilience of the people who have lived through all the horrors, has stumbled on.

Complete collapse has been staved off because Lebanon, or what remains of what was once a recognisable state, has gold reserves worth an estimated \$4.5 billion, among the largest in the world.

The current fighting, and the worsening damage to industry, could sound the death knell of the economy if it drags on for much longer.

An estimated 40 per cent of the industrial sector has been destroyed. Businesses have been wrecked, others driven to the wall.

Inflation is currently pegged at a crippling annual rate of 425 per cent.

Some leaders have argued that up to one-third of these assets should be sold to prop up the mangled economy. But political squabbling has torpedoed such efforts.

"The Lebanese have learned to operate under conditions of extreme political instability and even under the conditions of war we're seeing now," noted Professor Samir Makdisi, who teaches economics at the American University of Beirut.

But many Lebanese fear that

the current fighting, and the worsening damage to industry, could sound the death knell of the economy if it drags on for much longer.

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Shipping expert foresees shortage of supertankers

KUWAIT (AP) — A top Gulf shipping executive said in an interview published Saturday the world is on the verge of a supertanker shortage that could quadruple freight rates.

"The world will witness a shortage of tankers within two years such as occurred in the 1970s and freight fares are set to increase three-fold or four-fold," Abdul Fattah Al Bader, chairman of the Kuwait Oil Tankers Company, KOTC, said in an interview published in the daily Al Watan.

Bader estimated the total number of tankers currently operating at 380, sixty more than needed to ship present crude oil production.

But if Gulf output increases by

two million tonnes, that surplus would be insufficient, he said.

"The number of tankers is inadequate for handling the expected increase in the world's crude production," Bader said.

Bader did not elaborate, but at least two Gulf countries — Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates — are seeking higher production quotas from the International Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Bader predicted that the maritime transport market would improve further when Iran and Iraq sign a peace treaty to solidify a U.S.-sponsored ceasefire that halted the eight-year Gulf war last Aug. 22.

Rebuilding the two countries'

war-ravaged economies will cost several hundred billion dollars, according to Western analysts.

Bader said the KOTC had cut operating costs from \$18 per ton of oil in 1980 to \$10 "which is one of the lowest fares in the world."

He attributed the savings to trimming tanker crews from 30 to 18 men and reducing fuel consumption.

"We have become one of the most competitive companies in the world," Bader said.

He said the state-run KOTC, which has 30 tankers with a total capacity of 2,562,159 tonnes, was considering plans to internationalise its tanker operations, and a study would soon be presented to the board.

But if Gulf output increases by

Dublin, oil firms settle row

DUBLIN (R) — Multinational oil firms have agreed to lift their ban on petrol imports to the Irish republic, scrap promotional gifts and accept a government price freeze for the rest of this month.

But the oil firms were far from satisfied with the temporary peace formula hammered out with Industry Minister Ray Burke who conceded that prices might have to rise in May.

"There will be no price increases at the pumps at present," Burke said after four hours of talks with the oil companies. He had accused them of using "strong-arm tactics on a small

nation."

Esso and Shell halted imports Monday, saying they acted because the government was forcing them to sell at a loss.

The government imposed the freeze March 31 to prevent the oil companies introducing rises equivalent to 11.5 cents a gallon (2.5 cents a litre) in line with increases in Britain.

Petrol in Ireland costs the equivalent of \$3.90 a gallon (86.70 cents a litre), one of the highest pump prices in Europe.

Burke, whose major concern is trying to maintain Ireland's 3.3 per cent inflation at its current

low level, conceded that his petrol peace formula might be only temporary because of the present rise in world oil prices.

"We cannot ignore international trends," he said after the talks to work out a compromise with the multinationals.

Burke pledged to introduce legislation banning promotional gifts which he said added about five pence (7.5 cents) to the price of a gallon of petrol.

The oil companies agreed to resume imports but at a reduced level. The difference will be made up by the state-owned Irish National Petroleum Company from Ireland's Whitegate refinery.

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Notice of invitation to tender no. JCO/EEC/ASIP/88.08 issued by the Jordan Cooperative Organisation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for a project financed by the European Economic Community.

Project: No. SEM/02/628/032/A - Awassi Sheep Improvement Project

1. Participation: Tender open on equal terms to all natural and legal persons who are nationals of the Member States of the European Economic Community and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

2. Subject: Supply and (where applicable) installation, in 7 lots of farm equipment and veterinary products.

3. Invitation to tender dossier:

In English only, may be obtained free of charge from:
a) Jordan Cooperative Organisation, P.O. Box 1343, Amman, Jordan

b) Commission of the European Communities, Directorate General for Development, DG VIII, 200, Rue de la Loi, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium (telex 21877 COMEU B).

The tender-document is available for consultation only at the Information Offices of the European Communities in; D-5300 Bonn, Zitellmannstrasse 22

DK-1004 Copenhagen K, Højbrohus, Østergade 61 EL-2 Vasilissis Sofias, Athina 10674

F-61, rue des belles Feuilles, 75782 Paris, Cedex 16

IR-39 Molesworth Street, Dublin 2

L-2920 Luxembourg, Rue Alcide de Gasperi, BP 1503

NL- Lange Voorhout 29, Den Haag

UK - 8 Storey's Gate, London SW1P 3AT

PT-1200 Lisboa, Centre European, Jean Monnet, Rue de Salitre 56

ES - Madrid 1, Calle de Serrano, 41, 5a Planta

4. TENDERS to be submitted to the Director General of the Jordan Cooperative Organisation, P.O. Box 1343, Amman, Jordan to arrive at the latest by 10.00 a.m. local time on 05.06.1989.

The tenders will be opened in a public session at the above address on the same day at 10.00 a.m. local time.

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210 Auto Body Painting

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230 Auto Body Repair

240 Digital Electronics

250 Building Trades

260 General Business

270 Practical English

280 Photography

290 Draftsmanship & Design

300 Computer Programming

310 Auto Mechanics

320 Bookkeeping

330 Clothing Design

340 Medical Dental Office Ass.

350 Microcomputer Repair

360 Hotel Restaurant Mgt.

370 Air Conditioning & Refrig.

380 Auto Body Repair

390 Auto Body Painting

400 Motorcycles

410 Electrical

420 Police Sciences

430 Art

440 Office Secretary

450 Diesel Mechanics

460 TV/VCR Repair

470 Child Day Care

480 Drafting

490 Fitness & Nutrition

500 Small Engine Repair

510 Auto Body Repair

520 Auto Body Painting

530 Auto Body Shop

540 Auto Body Repair

550 Auto Body Painting

560 Auto Body Shop

570 Auto Body Repair

580 Auto Body Painting

590 Auto Body Shop

600 Auto Body Repair

610 Auto Body Painting

Sports

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, APRIL 17, 1989 7

English Soccer Round-up

FA CUP

Everton 1, Norwich 0 (1-0)
Pat Nevin's lucky goal in the 26th minute gave Everton the victory and a spot in the FA cup final. Nevin outraced Norwich goalie Bryan Gunn to the ball after defender Ian Crook banged a bad clearance off his own goalpost. Norwich, which was trying to bounce back from four losses in its last five league matches, had its dreams of cup victory shattered when it missed several scoring opportunities. Robert Rosario missed the last one, a makeable shot in the 71st minute, and said afterward that the sun blinded him. 46,553.

DIVISION 1

Arsenal 1, New Castle 0 (0-0)

Brian Marwood scored his 12th goal of the season to take Arsenal back to the top of Division 1. Arsenal broke down a dogged Newcastle after 70 minutes. David Rocastle picked up the ball in midfield and pushed it through for Michael Thomas who turned it inside for Rocastle to drive past goalkeeper Gary Kelly. Newcastle, second from the bottom of the first division, played with five across the back and seemed determined to earn a draw. The visitors would have won, missing two chances midway through the first half. 38,023.

Luton 2, Coventry 2 (0-0)

Luton threw away two points it badly needed in its fight against relegation when captain Steve Foster and fellow defender David Beaumont both scored own goals. Luton took the lead in the 54th minute when defender John

Dreyer headed his first goal for the club from a corner by David Preece. But in the 70th minute, a shot by Cyrille Regis bounced off the knee of Foster into his own net. Luton regained the lead after 75 minutes when Danny Wilson followed up his own penalty miss, but four minutes later Beaumont and goalkeeper Alec Chamberlain both went for a header by David Speedie and Beaumont got the final touch, heading into his own net. 8,610.

Manchester United 0, Derby 2 (0-1)

Manchester United's abysmal run continued as visiting Derby crushed to a comfortable victory on goals by Gary Mickelwhite in the third minute and Paul Goddard in the 66th minute.

QPR 0, Middlesbrough 0 (0-0)

Visiting Middlesbrough missed four chances for a victory. Twice in the first half Stuart Ripley tore QPR's defense to shreds only to see first Mark Proctor and then Bernie Slaven finish feebly. After the half Slaven then set up Alan Kermagh, who shot wide. Then David Seaman saved from Ripley and Peter Reid cleared Kermagh's shot off the line. 10,347.

West Ham 1, Southampton 2 (1-1)

Rodney Wallace scored just 33 seconds after the kickoff and West Ham never recovered. The Hammers, last in the division, tied the score 1-1 on Liam Brady's penalty kick at 25 minutes but Paul Rideout headed home a cross in the 51st minute for the victory.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
©1989 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

RUBBER AND DUPLICATE—TWO DIFFERENT GAMES!

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♦ K 9

♦ K 7 6 5

♦ 3

♦ Q 10 9 7 4 2

WEST EAST

♦ 6 ♦ J 8 7 2

♦ Q J 2 4

♦ A 10 9 3 2

♦ K 2 J 9 8 5 ♦ Q 10

♦ J 8 5 ♦ 6

SOUTH

♦ A Q 10 5 4 3

♦ Voids

♦ 7 6 4 2

♦ A K 3

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass

2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♦

There can be great difference in technique between a pairs tournament and rubber bridge. Cover the East-West hands, as South, decide how you would play the hand at both forms of the game.

Since South's spade rebid guarantees a six-card suit, North's invitational raise should be automatic. South has a little in reserve for his bid of four spades, but not enough

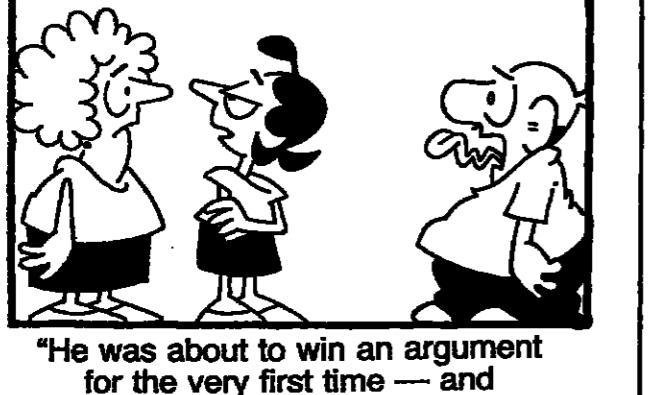
to do anything more. Note that six clubs, impossible to get to, is a pretty good contract.

Assume that you are playing in a pairs competition. You ruff the opening heart lead and decide that most of your fellow competitors also will be in four spades. Therefore, you should follow the percentage line in an effort to take as many tricks as possible. Ruff the opening heart lead and cash two rounds of trumps. Unfortunately, West shows out on the second round and a perfectly sound game bites the dust.

Playing rubber bridge, before you do anything else you must determine what poses a risk to your contract. Here, obviously, the major threat comes from a 4-1 trump break. How can you neutralize that? Simple enough.

At trick two, lead a trump from hand and insert the table's nine! Even if the cards lie as in the diagram, you are safe. The best East can do when he wins the jack is, say, shift to a club. You win in hand, draw the three outstanding trumps by starting with the ace from hand, and then run the clubs. You will collect five spade tricks and six clubs for a well-deserved overtrick.

THE BETTER HALF, By Harris



JUMBLE.

THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME
by Hank Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MYNEE

GOUCH

BALIVE

VECIED

**WHY PRACULA
DIED OF A
BROKEN HEART.**

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ANSWER: HE IN "OOOOO"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: ALIVE EMBER KINDLY INJURE

Answer: How the coal digger's favorite music was played—in a "HIMMER" KEY

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Johnson could run in '92 Olympics

MONTREAL (AP) — Ben Johnson may yet be able to run for Canada at the 1992 Olympics despite his positive test for steroids at the Seoul games last fall. Canadian Olympic Association President Roger Jackson says, "I think there's a possibility of that, yes," said Jackson Saturday. Jackson said the results of a Canadian inquiry into the use of banned drugs in sport would be reviewed by the association to determine if Johnson could run again. The inquiry, in progress in Toronto, is to run through the summer. Johnson, who tested positive for steroids after winning the 100 metres in world record time in Seoul, was banned for life by federal sports minister Jean Charest, but Jackson said it was unclear what the ban meant. He said he interpreted Charest's move as saying that no federal government funds, or funds from any federally-funded group, could support Johnson "but we all know Ben Johnson doesn't need federal funding."

Bassa retains WBA flyweight title

BARRANQUILLA, Colombia (R) — Colombian Fidel Bassa retained his World Boxing Association (WBA) flyweight title and his unbeaten professional record by stopping Panamanian Julio Gudino in the sixth round early Sunday. Venezuelan referee Isidro Rodriguez halted the contest after Bassa caught Gudino with a hard left hand punch and followed up with a flurry of blows which drove Gudino back onto the ropes. Gudino began to look tired in the third round after Bassa punched open a cut over the Panamanian's left eyebrow. But he recovered and in the fifth round unleashed a flurry of his own which left Bassa's right eye swollen. But Bassa's final onslaught in the sixth round backed the Panamanian on to the ropes and the referee decided he could no longer defend himself.

Graf, Sabatini advance to final

AMELIA ISLAND, Fla., (R) — Steffi Graf and Gabriela Sabatini advanced to the singles final of the Amelia Island women's tournament by identical scores Saturday, giving Graf a chance to settle a score Sunday. Graf, the world number one, beat sixth seed Arantxa Sanchez of Spain 6-3, 6-2, while third-seeded Sabatini subdued second seed Martina Navratilova by the same count in the semifinals of the \$300,000 tournament. The victory extended Graf's unbeaten record this year to 31 matches and the final affords her the opportunity to avenge one of her rare defeats in 1988. Last year Sabatini beat the West German 6-3, 4-6, 7-5 on these same clay courts for her second victory of the year against Graf, who lost only three times while winning 72 matches in her Grand Slam season. "Last year was my best match against Graf, it was the most emotional," said Sabatini, who has won only twice in 17 matches against Graf. "This is another year and we both have improved a lot. I think I'll have a good chance."

Jansher Khan beaten in British Open

LONDON (R) — Former world champion Jansher Khan failed to get beyond the quarter-finals of the British Open Squash tournament for the second year running Saturday. Second seeded Jansher crashed out after a humiliating 9-4, 9-6, 9-0 defeat by Australian Chris Robertson in just 46 minutes. Jansher had been seeded to meet his rival and fellow-Pakistani Jahangir Khan, an easy winner Saturday, in Monday's final. But world number six Robertson spoiled his plans, collecting the biggest win of his career as he emulated compatriot Rodney Martin, who put Jansher out at the quarter-final stage last year.

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, APRIL 17, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Chaired By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Planned events may not turn out as designed. Many will prefer independent situations where they can do their own thing. Push-and-shove may occur when some people exert themselves like mad.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Listen to your inner self today. It is a quiet time. Emotional rewards give you peace of mind and a new outlook.

Taurus (Apr. 20 to May 18) Cutting down will improve your measurements. The morning hours are the most productive. It is a great time to be creative.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 19) The news is mixed. Social activities can be a blast, but business ones can be a bust. Don't be afraid to make the first move.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You are confronted with some wacky views that come as a complete surprise. Join friends for a social night.

TAURUS (Aug. 22 to Aug. 21) Eat light meals to taper the tummy. The domestic scene is working smoothly. Be prepared for a great evening.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Negative aspects caution about the first move.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 19) You are making a good impression on the right person. Your vitality is high. Get into physical activities that are recreational.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Optimism and enthusiasm can set your week off with a bang. Progress is being made on all fronts. You get full moon help Thursday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be prepared for a minor disappointment. Otherwise it is a smooth sailing morning. Avoid decisions and stay with basic themes.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A new friendship is in bloom. Romance can be a very special affair. Don't be afraid to make the first move.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 18) Hold any important transactions or hold off on decisions. Caution is needed when doing hazardous services.

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Soccer fans climb to safety during the panic in which at least 94 people died Saturday at Sheffield's Hillsborough ground.

Sympathy, warnings, criticism raised after soccer disaster

LONDON (R) — World leaders and soccer officials have sent sympathy to Britain for the victims of the Sheffield stadium disaster Saturday in which 94 people died and 200 were injured when a crowd surged onto the packed terrace.

But soccer officials in Italy said the tragedy raised a question mark over a decision by the European Football Union Tuesday to allow English clubs back in European competition in 1990-91.

The clubs were banned in 1985 after 39 mainly Italian fans died after a rampage by English fans at a European Cup final in Brussels' Heysel stadium between Liverpool and Juventus.

Italy's Soccer Federation Chief Antonio Matarress said the tragedy raised "grave questions" about the decision to let English clubs return to European competition.

In Turin, Giovanni Boniperti, president of Juventus, said he was shocked and speechless at the Sheffield tragedy.

King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain spoke of an "unfortunate catastrophe" in a telegram to Queen Elizabeth and said: "Sofia and I send you and all the nation the expression of our most sincere regrets."

French President Francois Mitterrand told British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher: "I have been deeply moved by the Sheffield drama and assure

you and the families of the victims of my personal condolences."

British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, attending a foreign ministers meeting in Granada, Spain, sent condolences to the families of the victims.

"It's a very dark, sad day for soccer," said Jim Trecker, press officer for the U.S. World Cup Association, which will host the World Cup in 1994.

There were calls for improved safety rules at sporting events.

In Brazil, Tele Santana, the country's coach in the 1982 and 1986 world cups, told Reuters: "An accident of this nature is a great setback for soccer."

"This tragedy should remind the organizers of mass-sports events that the spectators' safety is their first duty."

"They should improve safety rules in stadiums and make sure they are kept," said Senator Fernando de la Rua, author of an Argentine law against violence in sports.

Media attack

British Sunday newspapers were scathing in their condemnation of English soccer authorities after the stadium disaster.

"Despite disaster after disaster, nothing seems to shake the complacency or incompetence of those who run the country's most popular spectator sport," the Sunday Times said in a special front-page editorial.

Colombo asks Tigers to send negotiators

COLOMBO (AP) — Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa Sunday responded to a militant Tamil offer to talk peace by asking their main political leader to send representatives to meet him, official sources said.

Evans Cooray, press secretary at the presidential secretariat, said a message has been conveyed to Anton Balasingham, political leader of the Tamil Tigers, asking him to nominate accredited representatives to talk with Premadasa.

Cooray said the message signed by K.H.A. Wijayadasa, secretary to the president, addressed to Balasingham, read:

"Your message to have a dialogue with the president of Sri Lanka is very much appreciated. He has instructed me to request you to nominate accredited representatives to discuss necessary

arrangements to facilitate the dialogue anywhere in Sri Lanka."

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the dominant separatist group fighting for a separate Tamil state, Saturday agreed to talk with Premadasa.

The Tigers in a statement to the president that was telecast to news agencies in Colombo Saturday said: "We wish to inform you that we are prepared to accept your open invitation to talk to us. We hope that you will make the necessary arrangements to facilitate dialogue."

A Tiger leader in Colombo early Sunday said he met Premadasa at Anuradhapura, 165 kilometres north of Colombo, and personally conveyed the Tiger message.

The leader, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the president was very receptive and

was keen to start the dialogue as soon as possible.

The efforts for talks between the government and the Tigers came amid continued violence which left at least 79 people dead since Thursday.

Police, led by an anonymous

telephone caller, rushed to a site near Petaluma, 50 kilometres north of San Francisco, found the bodies of Salcido's two-year-old daughter, Teresa, and her four-year-old sister, Sophia. Their sister, Carmina, three, had a slash across her throat and was rushed to a local hospital.

The deaths, discovered Saturday, brought the number of killings so far to seven as police in helicopters and at roadblocks stepped up their search for the suspected killer, 28-year-old Ramon Salcido.

"The suspect is armed and extremely dangerous and everyone is in danger at this point," Sonoma County Sheriff Richard Michaelson said. "Certainly Ramon Salcido is not going to give up easily."

Among the five earlier victims was her mother, Angelina, who police said had been shot dead in the family home at Boyes Hot

Springs, north of San Francisco. Salcido was described by neighbours as a heavy-drinking, hot-tempered man who was insanely jealous about his wife — one of the first victims Friday — and had threatened to "blow the head off" anyone who made approaches to her.

Police said Carmina told them her father had slashed her throat and left her with her sisters on the site early Saturday morning. A man searching for valuables said he found the girls in a gully.

Carmina was listed in stable condition after undergoing an operation.

"If the jury finds he was involved in self-dealing then his whole posture of moral rectitude is not going to wash (be believable)," said Ben-Veniste.

She said these complaints stopped in 1985, when North controlled a secret fund for the contras in his office safe.

"I think the business of the purchase of the car and perhaps the rebuttal testimony

After eight weeks of trial,

with final arguments scheduled to begin Tuesday, Nields and three other lawyers said that North's cross-examination by prosecutor John Keker may have damaged the defense.

All four agreed that the former National Security Council (NSC) aide's assertion that he covered the 1985 car purchase from a \$15,000 stash of money in a box bolted to the closet floor was troublesome for the defense.

To have come up with a locked box on the floor for your explanation for large expenses when you are taking travellers checks from your contra (petty cash account) looks terrible," Nields said.

He told jurors that on the advice of the late Central In-

nelligence Agency (CIA) Director William Casey he destroyed a ledger he kept to document all disbursements from the secret operational fund.

North also denied Keker's suggestion that he took \$3,000 from arms dealer Richard V. Second — to help buy an \$8,038 used car in 1985.

North said the money came from a "family fund" he kept in a metal box bolted to the floor of his closet. The money was amassed from an insurance settlement and change he emptied from his pants pockets every Friday night, North said.

North said he took \$5,000 to buy a station wagon but decided instead to purchase the more expensive car. North tes-

tified he made a \$5,000 initial payment and paid the additional \$3,000 later for a larger car.

But a used-car salesman disputed this testimony Friday, saying North told him he intended to partially finance the purchase through the White House Credit Union.

A former National Security Council secretary who disbursed expense accounts, said North was so pinched for cash in 1984 he complained he couldn't buy lunch or gas to drive home.

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